

ANNE BLOOMFIELD

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

**A HISTORY OF
THE CHARLES HENRY BLAKE HOUSE**

also known as

SUNNYHILL FARM

14120 MIRANDA ROAD

LOS ALTOS HILLS, CALIFORNIA

April 1997

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Background	1
Construction of the house	3
Description of the house	4
The original owner	4
Later owners	5
Partial chain of title	6
Sources	8

Newspaper stories:

Sobey-Dey wedding, 1911

Promotion and portrait of Ben Dey, 1929

Death of Deys' son, 1948

Maps:

Partition of the Taaffe Tract

M. & M. Taaffe's Subdivision of Lot 4

Acacia Acres

INTRODUCTION

The house at 14120 Miranda Road in Los Altos Hills is named after its first owner, Charles Henry Blake, who commissioned its construction and lived in it some 15 years. The house was designed by Henry H. Gutterson, a noted San Francisco and Berkeley architect. It was built in 1920 on a 13-acre lot which Blake used as an orchard. After Blake's death the house was owned successively by Maurice and Bertha Roos (1940-1943), Hazel S. Dey (1943-1953), Victor and Minnie Giusti (1953-1959), William F. Whitmore (1959-1993), and George and Elizabeth Still (1993 to the present).

BACKGROUND

At the time the Blake House was built, it was out in the country, and there was no such community as Los Altos Hills. The Santa Clara Valley seemed the largest orchard in the world, all composed of small family farms.

Ohlone Indians were the valley's first inhabitants, and in 1840 one of them, Jose Gorgonio, received a grant of Rancho la Purissima Concepcion, the land that became Los Altos Hills. As early as 1828 Mission Santa Clara's cattle had grazed there. Gorgonio, a skilled mason and former Mission neophyte, used his 4,436 acres to raise cattle, wheat, corn and vegetables, and for his family's home.

In 1847 Gorgonio sold Rancho la Purissima Concepcion to Juana Briones, daughter of a Mexican soldier. She was a midwife and nurse/doctor, and she carried on important businesses. In 1855 she leased most of this rancho to Martin Murphy, Jr. for grazing cattle.

Born in Ireland in 1807, Murphy had followed his father's family to Quebec in 1828, and later to Missouri. In 1843 three generations of the Murphy family joined Captain Stevens' 13-wagon party in crossing the continent to California. Martin Murphy Jr. initially settled on a farm near the present Stockton, and in 1850 he moved his growing family to a ranch that became Sunnyvale.

The Murphys never lived on Rancho Purissima Concepcion, but they bought it in 1871 and gave 2800 acres of it to their daughter Elizabeth, the first American child born in California. It was a present for her wedding to William Taaffe. After giving birth to four children, Elizabeth died in 1875, and her land reverted to her parents, who brought up her children.

The four Taaffe children were given 2600 acres of Purissima Concepcion in 1883, and the second son moved there with his bride in 1888. Their land extended westward from Adobe Creek. In 1891 it was divided into four lots,

numbered from west to east. Lot 4, of 703 acres, contained what was to become 14120 Miranda Road. Moody Road and Arastradero Road already existed at the time of this division, but the land must have been largely vacant. Usually subdivisions were undertaken in order to sell land for future development. Such large parcels as these must have been intended for agricultural use.

In 1897 the Taaffe twin daughters Mary and Miranda had Lot 4 divided into some 45 parcels. The subdivision map showed the existence or expectation of Fremont, Paloma, Robleda, Edith, and Miranda, all called 'avenues.' The future 14120 Miranda Road was in Lot 35, consisting of 13.07 acres from an "iron pipe" at the intersection of Fremont and Miranda, all the way to Adobe Creek.

Meanwhile, the more level portions of the Santa Clara Valley were turning into orchards. The first one had been planted by Indians for the Santa Clara Mission. In the 1850s fruit and grape cuttings began to come from eastern United States and from Europe. The Santa Clara Valley was found ideal for them because of its climate and soil, and its proximity to the eager consumers of San Francisco. Experimentation with and development of new varieties of fruits took place in the second half of the 19th century. The bing cherry, for instance, was developed, and the Pellier prune.

After a ten-acre unirrigated prune orchard on Stevens Creek Road yielded an income of \$2500 in 1881, many large-scale orchards were planted. Former grain fields were subdivided for family-sized orchards all over the valley and increasingly up into the hills. Drying the fruit extended marketing possibilities.

Technology encouraging the growth of orchards was the development of drying machinery to supersede the old method of laying the fruit out on screens for sun drying, which might be accompanied by mold and unsanitary tree or animal droppings. A mechanical dehydrator run on gasoline was developed in 1919 by Los Gatos inventor Romolo Puccinelli and U.C. Davis professor A.W. Christie.

By 1925 125,000 acres of orchards and vineyards filled the valley between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. Prunes were the favorite crop, but there were also apricots, cherries, and others. In springtime the valley was a wonderfully cheering carpet of blossoming trees.

With the Second World War came Moffitt Field, war industries, and people coming from other parts of the country to work there. After the war had shown the charms of California, the population continued to increase, and orchards were sold off to become subdivisions of tract housing. The community of Los Altos Hills was incorporated in 1956. The computer revolution and the prosperity of Silicon Valley closed the final chapter of the orchards. Only a few scattered trees remain.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE

Before 1914 the Folk family acquired Lot 35 of the M & M Taaffe Subdivision. They may have planted an orchard. In any case, they sold the lot to Charles Henry Blake, and recorded the deed on the 20th of April 1920. At the same time Blake also bought, from one Bertha Meyer, parts of Lots 38 and 39, which were across Miranda Avenue from Lot 35.

At the end of August, 1920, Blake contracted with John Morton for a "one-story frame and plaster nine-room residence, garage and tank house" to be built in Los Altos to designs by H. H. Gutterson. The cost was not given immediately.

A year later, on the 24th of August 1921, Charles Blake filed a Notice of Completion, stating that he accepted the finished buildings that Morton had constructed, and he was ready to pay for them.

John J. Morton was an experienced San Francisco carpenter and contractor. Researcher Gary Goss reports that Morton was architect Gutterson's contractor of choice for many residences in San Francisco's St. Francis Wood.

The architect Henry Higby Gutterson was born in Owatonna, Minnesota in 1884 and graduated in architecture from the University of California at Berkeley in 1906. He furthered his education with three years at the then-preeminent Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Before setting up his own office in 1913, he worked in turn for Daniel H. Burnham, Willis Polk, and John Galen Howard. He designed more than 60 houses in Berkeley, and his church work there includes the education building alongside Maybeck's famed Christian Science Church. He was supervising architect for the St. Francis Wood development from 1914 until his death in San Francisco in 1954.

Gutterson is considered one of the spiritual heirs of the Bay Area Tradition founders, Bernard Maybeck, Willis Polk, and Ernest Coxhead. Architectural historians discuss him along with Julia Morgan, John Hudson Thomas, Clarence Tantau, Hugh Comstock, W. R. Yelland, and Walter Ratcliff. He worked sometimes in the Arts and Crafts mode, sometimes with Medieval images of the Cotswold cottage or the Norman French farmhouse, and later with Hispanic idioms. His houses were often purposely low-key, but on inspection revealing complex forms and spaces, and manipulating rather than copying historic ideas. He also liked to exploit the site as a major ingredient in creating an aura, as he did so successfully with the Blake House.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HOUSE

The Charles H. Blake House at 14120 Miranda Road is a single story, wood frame house built on a plan shaped like an H. It is sited at the top of a rise, with views over the Santa Clara Valley to east, south and southwest.

A generalized Hispanic style results from the house's plain stucco exterior walls, its arches, and its patios. A mildly Medieval flavor is invoked by its oversize fireplace, the column capitals, and the arched dining room ceiling. Arts and Crafts elements include the wrought iron decorations, the shaped beam ends, and the shell design over the built-in sideboard.

Gutterson ably blended these seemingly disparate elements into a quiet whole which takes advantage of the view possibilities, has a sensible floor plan, and lightens every room, often with windows on two sides.

THE ORIGINAL OWNER

Charles H. Blake and his family lived in this house from its construction in 1920-1921 until his death on the 8th of September 1936. His life history is elusive because Bay Area directories and archives scarcely note his existence. He was listed in local directories as an "orchardist," like many others in the area. With about 20 acres at his disposal, he certainly grew some kind or kinds of fruit, in addition to a garden around the house. He called the place Sunnyhill Farm.

However Blake was by no means a subsistence farmer. The house that he ordered constructed as soon as he bought the property must have been costly. Surely a San Francisco architect of the first rank, and a San Francisco contractor to carry out the designs, were considerably above the level of pure necessity. The site was probably chosen more for its beauty and views than for ease in farming.

Blake was probably what the English might call a gentleman farmer. For the years 1925 and 1926 he was listed in San Francisco directories as president of the International Securities Corporation. He probably had made a fortune somewhere outside the San Francisco Bay Area and was creating this place as his vacation or retirement home. He was not a young man in 1920, for by his death sixteen years later he was a grandfather.

Blake's estate, which was administered by his daughter, consisted of Sunnyhill Farm and some securities, altogether valued at \$73,685.61. The heirs were his widow Cecelia L. Blake, their daughter Louise Blake Smith, the granddaughter Cecelia Louise Smith, and Blake's brother William of New York.

LATER OWNERS

Sunnyhill Farm was distributed at the beginning of July 1937 by Charles Blake's estate to his widow Cecelia (sometimes Celia) L. Blake. A month and a half later she deeded the property to the daughter Louise Blake Smith. The mother, daughter and granddaughter were then living at the Huntington Hotel on Nob Hill in San Francisco.

In 1940 Louise Blake Smith sold the "farm" to Maurice and Bertha Roos, who kept it for three years.

Hazel Sobey Dey bought the property (minus 1 ½ acres) in 1943 and sold it in 1953. She was the wife (later widow) of Benjamin Clifford Dey, an attorney. He was a native of Oregon City, Oregon, who graduated from the Stanford law department in 1905 and went to work for a Southern Pacific Railroad attorney at the beginning of 1906. He married Hazel Sobey of San Francisco in 1911. In 1916 Dey became counsel for the railroad's business in all of Oregon. At the beginning of 1930 he took over as head of Southern Pacific's entire legal department, and his headquarters moved to New York City.

The Deys evidently bought the Los Altos Hills property as a vacation retreat and retirement house. Ben retired at the end of 1948 and died some time before Hazel sold the property in 1953. Their son Benjamin C. Dey Jr. died at the age of 32 while flying a small plane from Reno to the Peninsula. It crashed on a slope of Donner summit during a snowstorm, narrowly missing the terminal of a ski lift. His widow, the former Dorothy Brookman, later married someone named Sanford. Ben and Hazel Dey's daughter Marilyn married Charles Lewis Prince in 1947.

The buyers in 1953 were Victor E. Giusti, an unmarried man, and Minnie L. Giusti, a widow and probably his mother. We can assume they lived in the Blake House. In 1956 they recorded a subdivision map for "Acacia Acres," which divided the reduced Lot 35 of the M & M Taaffe subdivision into ten parcels, with lot lines similar to the present ones. This subdivision created a block-long dead end street they called Giusti Court but is now Seven Acres Lane. The Giustis retained ownership of 14120 Miranda Road.

In 1959 William F. Whitmore and his wife bought 14120 Miranda Road from Victor Giusti and the estate of Minnie. They lived here and put the property in trust for their children Edward, Thomas and Peter. In 1993 it was sold to the Stills, the present owners.

PARTIAL CHAIN OF TITLE

- 1840, June 30 Grant: Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, Gov. Alvarado to José Gorgonio, an Ohlone Indian, and his son José Ramon (from Fava, *Los Altos Hills*, p. 28)
- 1844, Oct. 30 Grant: Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, José Gorgonio and son to Juana Briones de Miranda (from Fava, p. 29)
- 1854, Apr. 11 Decree: Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, U.S. Land Commission to Juana Briones (from Fava, p. 31)
- 1855, Oct. 9 Lease: Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, Juana Briones to Martin Murphy Jr. (from Fava, p. 49)
- 1863, Jan. 29 Patent: Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, 4,436 acres, U.S.A. to Juana Briones (from Fava, p. 31)
- 1871, July 19 Deed: Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, Juana Briones to Martin Murphy Jr. (from Map Book C, page 119)
- c.1871 Gift: 2800 acres of Rancho La Purissima Concepcion, Martin Murphy Jr. to daughter Elizabeth Yuba Martin Taaffe (from Fava, pages 47, 50)
- c.1875 Probable deed: 2800 acres, estate of the late Elizabeth Taaffe to her parents, Mary and Martin Murphy Jr. (from Fava, p. 50)
- 1883, Feb. 13 Deed of gift: 2600 acres, Mary and Martin Murphy Jr. to William F. Taaffe, Martin I. Taaffe, Mary Taaffe, and Matilda Taaffe (from Fava, p. 51)
- 1891, Oct. 1 Map recorded: "Partition of the Taaffe Tract," 14120 Miranda Road being in its Lot 4, which is 703 acres (from Map Book C, p. 119)
- 1897, July 15 Map recorded: "M[ary] and M[atilda] Taaffe's Subdivision of Lot 4 of the Taaffe Partition," 14120 Miranda Road being in Lot 35, which is 13.07 acres (from Map Book I, p. 72-73)
- 1914 Official Map of Santa Clara County: Lots 35, 37 (up Miranda Road) and 38 (across Miranda Road) owned by N. Folk (from J.G. McMillan, "Map of Santa Clara County, California")

- 1920, Apr. 20 Deed: Lot 35, Mary Folk and husband B.W. Folk to Charles Henry Blake (from Deeds Book 507, p. 519)
- 1921, Aug. 24 Notice of Completion: Charles H. Blake to John Morton (from Recorder's General Index, vol. 114)
- 1937, July 2 Decree of Distribution: Lot 35 and portions of lots 38 and 39 (across Miranda Road), estate of the late Charles Blake, by executor Louise Blake Smith, to Cecelia L. Blake (from Official Records Book 825, p. 540)
- 1937, Aug. 19 Deed, Lot 35 and portions of lots 38 and 39, Celia L. Blake to Louise Blake Smith (from Official Records Book 839, page 293)
- 1940, July 25 Deed, Lot 35, Louise Blake Smith to Maurice and Bertha Roos (from Official Records Book 993, page 364)
- 1943, Mar. 16 Deed, 11.54 acres of lot 35, Maurice Roos and wife Bertha Roos to Hazel S. Dey (from Official Records Book 1128, page 579)
- 1953, Apr. 7 Deed, 11.54 acres of lot 35, H.S. Dey, widow, to Victor E. Giusti, an unmarried man, and Minnie L. Giusti, a widow (from Official Records Book 2637, page 149)
- 1956, Oct. 31 Subdivision Map: Tract No. 1813, Acacia Acres, subdividing lot 35 into ten parcels, filed by Victor E. and Minnie L. Giusti, the present lot of 14120 Miranda Road being excluded from the subdivision and owned then by Giusti (from Map Book 73, page 33)
- 1959, Aug. 5 Joint Tenancy Deed: 14120 Miranda Road, Victor E. Giusti and estate of the late Minnie Giusti to W.F. Whitmore and his wife (see Official Records Book 5404, pages 404 and 406)
- 1993, Sept. 1 Grant Deed: 14120 Miranda Road, William F. Whitmore as trustee for Edward Kent Whitmore, Thomas Sherman Whitmore and Peter Frederick Whitmore, to George J. Still Jr. and Elizabeth V.B. Still (from Official Records M978, page 0456)

SOURCES

Building and Engineering News. 1 September 1920, page 4 column 3.

California State Library. *Index to San Francisco Newspapers, 1904-1950*.

Cerny, Susan Dinkelspiel. *Berkeley Landmarks, an Illustrated Guide to Berkeley, California's Architectural Heritage*. Berkeley, Berkeley Architectural Heritage, 1994, 244 and scattered references to Gutterson.

"Dey Heads S. P. Legal Counsel." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 19 December 1929, page 15.

"Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lyne Sobey . . ." *Chronicle*, 21 November 1911, page 7.

Fava, Florence M. *Los Altos Hills*. Woodside, Gilbert Richards Publications, 1976.

"Five Die in Air Crashes." *Chronicle*, 29 April 1948, page 1.

Gebhard, David, et al. *The Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California*. Salt Lake City, Peregrine Smith, 1985, scattered references to Gutterson.

Goss, Gary, architectural researcher. Personal communication, fall 1996.

Jacobson, Yvonne. *Passing Farms: Enduring Values, California's Santa Clara Valley*. Los Altos, William Kaufmann & the California History Center, 1984.

Los Altos section. *San Jose Directory*. 1920 through 1952, listings for Charles H. Blake and the Dey family.

McMillan, J. G. "Map of Santa Clara County, California." 1902 and 1914.

San Francisco Directory. Selected years, 1901 through 1944, listings for Charles H. Blake, Henry H. Gutterson, and John J. Morton.

Santa Clara County Assessor. *Map Book 175*, page 10.

Santa Clara County Recorder. *Deed Books, Map Books, Official Records, and General Index*. (See "Partial Chain of Title" above.)

Woodbridge, Sally, editor. *Bay Area Houses*. Salt Lake City, Peregrine Smith, 1988, page 363 and scattered references to Gutterson.

third man passing caught the question inadvertently, but the reply of it was lost. It might, however, were it known, quite harmed.

York man asked in a curious and perfectly audible tone "Isn't your mustache turn gray like your hair?" which had never to do with finance.

day an excursion into Chinatown revealed a strange con-
"lady." Home Editors and household page authorities who
that constitutes a "lady" are narrow in their views. At the
ont street and Clay a man and a woman stood talking earnestly
them were battered, weather-beaten specimens of humanity.
rated the man for some social delinquency a moth eaten
belligerently in the hat of the woman. "When youse insult
saying, "when youse insult me in the presence of other
what she would do about it was a mere echo of many
excursionists into Chinatown. The point discovered had been
a lady and the man hadn't denied it. There was once a
e who told that a man said she was no lady and she hit him
t to show him. The man in Chinatown possibly know the
s in his set.

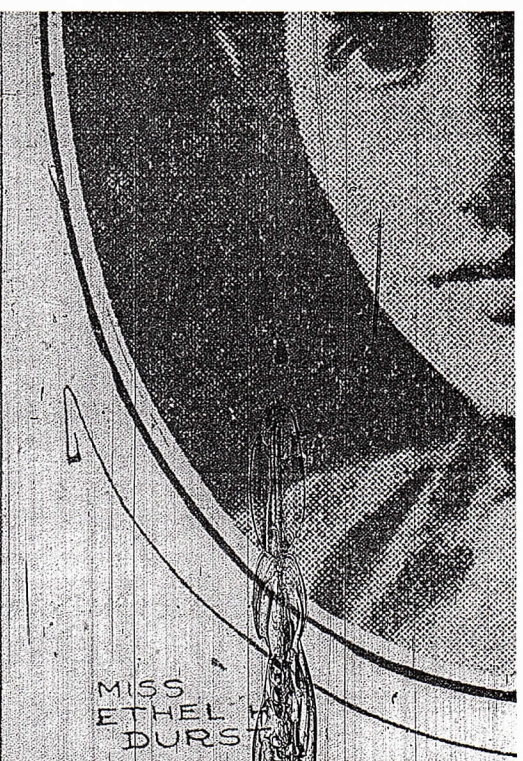
* * *
of the engagement of
Hamilton and Rudolph
made yesterday by the
bride elect, Mrs. Alexan-
e news was told in-
received by the
couple. Miss Hamilton
prettiest girls in society,
ing brunette with dark
eyes, and is a favorite
y assemblies and other
younger set. She is a
George Martin and of the
and Edna Hamilton. Her
Fletcher Hamilton and
but Schilling is a son
Adolph Schilling. The
young couple will take
ly part of next year.

* * *
Among the informal dancing parties
of the winter that will be an innova-
tion are the two "impromptu potillions"
to be given Tuesday evening, December
19, and Tuesday February 13, when the
hours for dancing are announced from
9 to 1. There will be a large number
of the younger set and a few of the
older enthusiasts who are dancing this
season at the parties. The patronesses
are:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. F. H. Beaver | Mrs. Edgar N. Wilson |
| Mrs. E. L. Erve | Mrs. M. Hall McAllister |
| Mrs. J. W. Maillard | Mrs. J. A. Folger |
| Mrs. W. B. Tubbs | Mrs. Arthur Page |

* * *
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Lyne Sobey have
sent out cards announcing the mar-
riage of their daughter, Miss Hazel
Sobey, to Benjamin Clifford Dey of
Portland. The wedding took place
Wednesday, November 15, at the home
of the bride in this city. The best man
was A. A. Hampton of Portland, who
came here for the ceremony. He is a
college friend of the bridegroom, both
having been graduated from Stanford
with the class of '05. During his col-
lege career Ben Dey took a prominent
part in debates and was editor of the
daily college paper. The couple will
reside in Portland after a honeymoon
trip in the southern part of this state.

* * *
Cards have been received from Mr.
and Mrs. Charles Evans announcing the
marriage of their daughter, Miss Lucy
Frances Evans, to Dr. Alfred Dow
Long, which took place Wednesday, No-
vember 15, at San Diego. The bride
is a charming and accomplished girl.
Dr. Long formerly made his home here



MISS
ETHEL
DURSTON

Stanford st

Phi Beta Kappa Organizations

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
honor society, when seniors were
They are: Miss Ethel H.
'12, San Bernardino; Miss Jose
Beach, '12, Palo Alto; Maurice
Superior scholarship throu
Beta Kappa, the oldest Greek I

and has a large circle of friends
will be interested in the news
wedding. He is a graduate of the
University of California and Johns
University. He has passed most
time in recent years in travel
Europe, but returned recently
San Diego, where he will establish his
with his bride after a brief
journey.

* * *
The engagement is announced
Lieut. Ross E. Rowell, U. S. N.,
Marguerita Sanderson, daughter
and Mrs. Frank Livingston of L
geles. The bride elect is one
most attractive women in soc
the southern city and has many
here, where she was a visitor la
son as the guest of her uncle an
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pixley. Lie
Rowell is one of the popular off
the service and is attached to t

AMUSEMENTS

CIA VALENCIA
at 14th
Mat. Sat., 2 p. m.

AND OPERA CO.

TONIGHT
Night Double Bill
"RUSTICANA" and "LA
P" (First Time Here)
HT. . . . "LA JUIVE"

AMUSEMENTS

Call, 21 Nov. 1911, p. 7

imson and
or Debuchi
headquar-
eceded the
ansion.
e Japanese
w York to

MARY
reign Min-
d to have
naval and
ons in the
y that the
eres to its
val confer-
and that
be taken
hole ques-
land, sea
sidered at
e Govern-

me morn-
rinted au-
ports pub-
ly would
of naval
ste shortly
D'Orsay in

that Italy
ench gov-
h cordial-
nunciation

**RNS
MS CUT**
Lord
battle
Battle of
ommander
t, told the
at Great
the com-
h figures
minimum
limit of

commit-
great and
e British
od forbid
posed to
with the
er nation,
ould lose
is empire
its com-
and that
sea they

for the
the con-
vernment
that the
continue
the rem-
ment to
nse.

ecord

(P)—In
s of the
uckram-
dings of

of Supervisors that it appropriate
\$9200 to cover the extension of water
mains into the Bayview district was
adopted yesterday by the Public
Utilities Committee of the board.

The committee heard the request
of a delegation of 100 citizens from
the Eureka valley district for the
establishment of a bus line from
Seventeenth and Market streets to
Twenty-eighth and Diamond streets.
The matter was referred to the City
Engineer's office, when Fred Boek-
en, superintendent of the Municipal
Railway, told the committee that
Municipal busses were operated in
San Francisco at a loss of \$108,000
last year.

Members of the Marina Home
Owners' Protective Association ap-
peared before the committee and
asked for an exchange of transfers
from the F line of the Municipal
Railway to the Fillmore street
service of the Market Street Rail-
way Company at the intersection
of Chestnut and Fillmore streets.
This matter was referred to the
Market Street Railway for recom-
mendation.

The Public Utilities Committee
also asked the Board of Supervisors
to pass an ordinance allowing the
R. C. Scott Advertising Company
to post advertisements on the out-
side of street cars. At the present
time the company uses only the
interior of the car. The ordinance,
if passed, would bring an additional
revenue of \$7850 to the city, it was
pointed out.

Hoover Signs Debt Pact With France

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—The
agreement for settlement of the
French war debt to the United
States was formally consummated
today when President Hoover signed
the congressional resolution of rati-
fication.

Only the obligations of Russia and
Armenia incurred to this country
during the war remain to be settled.
The soviet government has dis-
avowed the debt contracted during
the Czarist regime and Armenia has
not come to terms.

The French government ratified
the Mellon-Berenger agreement last
summer. It provided for the pay-
ment of a principal of \$4,025,000,000
over a period of sixty-two years.

Dr. Giannini Back For Taylor Reunion

Back in San Francisco to attend
a reunion he has observed for many
years—that of the men who served
on the Board of Supervisors under
the late Edward Robeson Taylor,
former Mayor.—Dr. A. H. Giannini,
New York banker, is at the Hotel

for, the work progressed speedily
yesterday.

Each box, attractively bound with
holly decorated wrappings and
sealed with Christmas seals con-
taining smokes, memo books, hand-
kerchiefs, case containing mirror
and comb and toilet aids of all de-
scriptions.

The presentation of the boxes

Hospital Rehabilitation Comm
Included in the committee are
Goldie Duncan, Mrs. Martha
ders, Mrs. Janet Stephens,
Charlotte Morning, Mrs. /
Lukens, Miss Olga Cunnin
Mrs. Fannie Tomlin, Mrs.
Marshall, Mrs. Valéska Nelson
Emma Dunn, Mrs. Mary M.
and Mrs. Alice Gill.

DEY HEADS S. P. LEGAL COUNSEL

President Shoup Announces Appointment to Succeed Blair, Retired

The appointment of Ben C. Dey
of Portland, Or., to succeed J. P.
Blair, general counsel for Southern
Pacific Lines, with general super-



BEN C. DEY

vision and control of all legal
business of the
company and its
subsidiary cor-
porations, was
announced here
yesterday by
Paul Shoup,
president of the
railroad. Dey is
now the com-
pany's general
attorney in Ore-
gon.
Blair, after
thirty-eight
years of contin-
uous service in
the law depart-
ment of the
Southern Pacific
Lines, will retire
from active service
under the pension
rules of the com-
pany on December
31, 1929. Dey's
appointment be-
comes effective
January 1, 1930.
He will maintain
his headquarters
at the office of the
company at 163
Broadway, New
York city.

Dey began the practice of law on
January 1, 1906, in the office of
William D. Fenton, then counsel for
the railroad's lines in Oregon. On
Fenton's retirement on July 1, 1916,
Dey was appointed general attorney
of the company's lines in that State.

Dey was born on a farm near
Oregon City, Or. He was graduated
from the law department of Stan-
ford University in December, 1905.
He is senior partner in the law firm
of Dey, Hampson & Nelson.

FERRIS BACKS UP CRITIC

Stanford Scientist Says Is in Quarantine Fight to Stay

PALO ALTO, Dec. 18 (AP)—Ta
notice of the discussion stirre
by his recently published a
questioning the value of the
quarantine method. G. F. F
associate professor of entomolo
Stanford University, today de
that "the matter is no longer
of the merits of the quaran
alone; it is now a question of
right of a scientific man to ex
his legitimate views."

The professor's statement wa
reaction to the charges made t
by G. H. Hecke, State Directo
Agriculture, at a meeting in
ramento of County Agricul
Commissioners. He laid the fu
over his quarantine criticism
"agricultural bureaucrats."

"I am not alone among e
mologists of the United State
my belief that plant quaran
have been perverted. I am in
fight to stay until a national
finding scientific commission
been appointed to consider
problem from every point of
and no political bluff and bl
is going to scare me out."

WOMAN FINED FOR WIN

Mrs. Sylvine Cambot, 1396 E
avenue, was fined \$100 by Pec
Judge Louderback yesterday on
plea of guilty to wine posses
She was indicted following a
October 16, but liquor sale cha
against her were dismissed
consent of the Government.

Mother Believes Sea Lured Boy



the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, said his union has "not made up its mind if and when a strike date will be set."

All three operating unions broke off wage talks with representatives of the Nation's railroads last night. They announced formally that a strike call would be issued at 9:30 a. m., Central Standard Time today.

CALL DELAYED

The strike call was not made at that time. However, in Cleveland a spokesman for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen announced the strike had been set for 6 a. m., May 11.

Except for the last minute peace effort of the mediation board, all other peace-promoting steps provided by the National Railway Labor act have been exhausted. The 150,000 members of the three unions involved are bound by the Railway Labor act, but not the Taft-Hartley labor law Congress enacted last year.

Thus the Government could not go into court for an injunction as it did in the recent soft coal strike.

The strike announcement was signed by C. H. Keenan, vice president of the Firemen and Enginemen, and C. E. McDaniels, vice president of the Switchmen. They said all provisions of the Railway Labor act had been complied with and authorized the employees they represent to "withdraw from the service in a legal strike effective May 11, 1948."

INDEPENDENT ACTION

Shields said it was his understanding that each of the three operating unions could act independently as it saw fit.

The strike call climaxed a day of confusing developments in the railroad dispute.

The Cleveland spokesman gave out the strike information a few minutes before the scheduled strike date announcement in Chicago. The Chicago union strike committee, advised of this development, refused to comment or tell why their announcement was being held up.

The Cleveland spokesman for the Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen stood by his guns, however, saying his announcement still held good in the absence of any denial from the Chicago conferees.

The Chicago announcement was made at 3:40 p. m. Central Standard Time—more than six hours behind schedule. None of the union conferees would explain the delay.

However, it was believed to have been caused by the quick intervention of the Railway Mediation Board and possibly a decision of the Engineer's Union not to act in concert in the strike plans.

The strike threat stemmed from a demand by the unions for a 30 percent pay hike with a minimum raise of \$3 a day and changes in working rules.

The three unions turned down a recommendation to an emergency fact-finding board for a wage increase of 15½ cents an hour. Two other operating brotherhoods—the Railway Trainmen and Railway Conductors—accepted the wage recommendation. Earlier, about 1,000,000 non-operating rail workers in 16 unions accepted the 15½ cents hourly wage increase.

The measure is given a better than 50-50 chance of Senate approval.

REPEAL OF TAXES

It would repeal all Federal taxes and handling fees on margarine. Chief of these is a 10-cents-a-pound tax on butter-colored margarine. At present, housewives either have to pay the extra 10 cents or else buy the cheaper white margarine and add color themselves.

The white variety is taxed a quarter-of-a-cent a pound. That levy also would be wiped out.

(In addition to the Federal taxes many States have laws discriminating against margarine. California statutes forbid sale of colored margarine but do not tax the uncolored product.)

The vote ended an epochal fight between pro-butter congressmen from the dairy states and a more powerful Southern states-Northern industrial area bloc which fought for the repealer on two major grounds:

1—That oleo, though made almost entirely from vegetable oils, is as nutritious as butter.

2—That housewives for decades have been at the mercy of the "butter trust" which they claimed was keeping margarine prices high through taxation to bar competition.

The dairy states bloc fought back with these charges:

1—That oleo is inferior to butter, is not so nourishing, and that the aim of the bill is to let oleo makers color their product to fool the public into thinking it is buying butter.

2—That the bill, if it becomes law, will ruin the dairy industry by subjecting it to unfair competition.

TRIANGULAR PACKAGE

The pro-margarine bloc beat down all efforts to make its bill impotent. Among changes proposed was one to require that oleo be sold in triangular or circular packages to distinguish it from butter.

The idea was to make oleo producers turn out packages that couldn't be confused with butter. That would require special production machinery.

Representative Corbett (R., Pa.), a staunch oleo man, snorted:

"Imagine this Congress legislating the shape of a manufactured product. Next thing you know they'll come in and ask us to legislate that cotton dresses shall be short while rayon dresses will have the new look."

Representative Knutson (R., Minn.), who has threatened reprisals against cotton, was bitter toward members of his own party who voted for the repealer. He referred to Representative Rivers (D., S. C.), the bill's sponsor, as "the new Republican leader."

Market Held Up, \$635 Stolen

The owner and clerk of the Miraloma Market at 755 Portola drive were slugged last night by holdup men who threatened to lock a trio of women customers in the refrigerator.

The three armed bandits who participated in the crime escaped with a total of \$635, police said.

Five Die in Air Crashes

Ex-Stanford Athlete Killed Near Donner; East Bay Accident

A high Sierra plane crash yesterday claimed the life of a man identified as Ben C. Dey Jr., 32, former Stanford University tennis star, and son of a retired railroad attorney.

Bodies of four victims of another private plane crash were brought out of the Southern Alameda county hills last night. The dead, whose plane crashed near Warm Springs on Tuesday night, were:

Leland Pritchard, 40, and his wife, Lillian, 35, both of Ivanhoe, near Visalia. Pritchard was postmaster at Ivanhoe.

Frank Roush, 41, and his wife, Frances, 40, of Ivanhoe. Roush was a rancher and his wife was a teacher.

The Dey plane crashed on a slope of Donner summit during a snowstorm.

Gratz Powers, ski instructor at the Donner Ski Ranch, said the plane was telescoped. The plane narrowly missed the terminal of a ski lift.

The body was taken to Truckee, where identification was announced by Sheriff Richard Hoskins.

Dey had refueled his converted Army trainer at Reno shortly before the crash. He had filed no flight plan, but apparently was en route to a Peninsula air field.

He was married to the former Dorothy Brookman here in 1941. His father, Ben C. Dey Sr., retired in December as general counsel of Southern Pacific.

The Pritchard plane took off from San Jose late Tuesday afternoon and presumably crashed about 6:30 p. m.

The four visited the Oakland Garden Show Monday and left Oakland Airport Tuesday morning.

Dr. J. W. Roush of 29 Estralla street, Piedmont, who accompanied the party to the airport, said Pritchard, who piloted the plane, commented he thought the plane's engine had been missing during the flight from Visalia to Oakland.

Cause of the wreck is being investigated by Civil Aeronautics Administration authorities.

Discovery of the plane in the isolated area ended a search which began Tuesday night, following reports a plane had been seen diving behind a hillside in the vicinity about 6:30 p. m.

The wreckage was found yesterday afternoon at a spot approximately 13 miles northeast of San Jose, 400 feet down the slope of a deep canyon.

It was three and one-half miles from any road, which slowed the removal of the bodies.

The bodies were strewn over an area of 50 yards. The tentative identification was made from driver's licenses in the purses of the women, and by the NC identification number on the plane.

vote he received was "partly gratifying."

And Governor James H. who has not disclosed his support any candidate—said the Dewey had the most significance.

The Governor, key figure in Pennsylvania Republican politics, that "I don't know that the knew Senator Vandenberg (Michigan) is a candidate. If it is known definitely I am sure would have been a very definite result with respect to him."

"I definitely attribute to that his vote was not large; fact that the people did not he was available."

The Governor did not reject reporter's question whether Vandenberg's availability.

Vandenberg was sixth Stassen, Dewey, Senator Martin, General MacArthur, Senator Taft. He was a General Eisenhower and Helms place.

With 7339 of the State's 8 precincts reported, and no pre-substantial change until the count is available, the totals: Stassen 74,289; Taft 69,426; Vandenberg 41,318; Eisenhower 17,181; Wallace.

In the State's two great political centers of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Stassen's lead was for the State as a whole, ahead by 4863 with Dewey outside the two big cities by Democratic voters in 6 precincts cast 242,264 votes for Dewey.

Democratic voters in 6 precincts cast 242,264 votes for Dewey. His name only was on the ballot. Eli got 247 Democratic write-in and Wallace 3614.

The primary vote is not on Pennsylvania delegation will be the second largest national Republican and Democratic conventions.

State Republican leader said their 73 votes will pledged in advance but will for Senator Martin as the favorite son. Democrats have announced support of Truman's candidacy.

China Elects Vice President

NANKING, April 29 (AP) Li Tsing-jen of Peiping, political opponent of Gen Chiang Kai-shek, was elected President of China today.

The National Assembly 1488 votes, against 1295 for Li, elected Sun Fo. The bureau after yesterday's election of General Cheng Chi-nien, a week of bewildering and hectic sessions.

Market Street Repair Bulletin

The Police Traffic Bureau reported the following traffic conditions due to repair work on streets: Eighth and Ninth crossings are now open and Tenth street is closed. The crossing at and Cough will be closed.